

FOOCHOW.

We learn that a full grown tiger, which has been committing ravages for some months past in the neighbourhood of Sanyiku, and became a terror to the inhabitants, was shot last week by some natives. It is said that four of the latter who ate a portion of the carcase, were poisoned, but we cannot vouch for the accuracy of the latter statement.

An accident of a peculiar character occurred in the city on Wednesday night week during the heavy rain. A family consisting of husband, wife, and two sons, aged respectively twelve, and four years, retired to rest in the same bed. During the night a deluge broke down a portion of the wall, and the rush of mud from the outside suffocated all, save the husband, who it appears had taken the outside of the bed, and received sufficiently long warning as to be able to escape.

We are pleased to observe that through a memorial signed by the Portuguese community in Fochow, the French Ministry have been pleased to confer upon Viscount de Bezaure, who is now absent on leave, the rank of knight in acknowledgement of his services as Consul during about eight years in Fochow. The telegram conveying the news does not state the precise decoration that has been conferred on the Viscount.

We hear that a small mandarin was recently entrusted with a considerable amount of money to purchase rice in Fochow for the distressed inhabitants of Ou Ang, where the crops have been scorched up through want of rain, and thus reduced the natives to a state of starvation. This amount he applied to his own use, and gambled away. His sin, however, was soon visited with just punishment, as whilst in a state of coma, from the effects of opium, he was burnt to death during the fire we alluded to in a previous issue.

An actor attached to a travelling company which visited this port a few days ago, poisoned a native of Fochow, and then absconded. It appears that the former's wife had been unfaithful, and instead of the husband immediately executing the accused, either by his own hands or at the instance of the Mandarins, as is customary, he procured a deadly Chinese poison, which he administered to his victim in rice, and death resulted almost instantaneously. The murderer is said to be in Amoy, but of course no steps will be taken for his apprehension under the circumstances.

The Second Annual Report of the Fochow Recreation Ground, recently published, could scarcely be more satisfactory, considering the comparatively short time the Recreation Ground, Race Course, &c., &c. have been in existence. That this is entirely due to the same excellent management by which the swampy paddies fields were suddenly transformed into a most picturesque site, there can be no doubt, and the Committee cannot be too highly praised for their exertions in attaining such consummate practical and financial results.

Last Thursday, being the anniversary of the birthday of Chung-yuen, Taouist god of the element Earth also of Chang Loh, a Taouist Saint, the two events were duly celebrated by the natives. Although the weather was most inclement still throughout the day, processions were to be observed, each having a chair in which were two huge heads (feasting on either side of a table); the bodies and legs of which, if possessed, must have been considerably out of proportion with the heads, and concealed under the table. From the expression of countenance of the two giants, they appeared to be heartily regretting themselves.

Up to the present, Fochow has been exceptionally fortunate in escaping typhoons; but unfortunately the season for these unwelcome visitors is far from being over, and we generally find that this port suffers most from these violent hurricanes a few weeks later;—the memorable one of the year before last, taking place on the 28th of August. We learn from the various shipping reports, that storms of considerable fury, and approaching typhoons, have been experienced only a short distance out at sea, and several steamers rather roughly treated by the elements. We have not, however, up to the present, heard of any actual wrecks on this coast.

Another large fire occurred on the far side of the Bridge of a "Thousand Ages" on Tuesday last, commencing at half past two o'clock in the morning, and half past five, between the "Fire Walls" by half past five. During the three hours that the fire lasted, it burnt with considerable fury, the breeze accompanying the then flowing tide, fanning, and assisting the flames in their devastation. The fire originated in a joiner's shop, the owner of which left the premises at an early hour, forgetting to extinguish the light he had been using, and which it is presumed, was overturned by the wind amongst the loose shavings. The number of dwellings demolished was two hundred and twenty five, and we learn that some of the houses were rather superior to the ordinary Chinese dwellings, the premises alone where the fire commenced being valued at three hundred dollars, and a large sum for the construction of a native dwelling-house.

The Pearl Oyster Shelling Fishery is put quite in the shade, if we are to give credence to a report which reaches us from the city. It is said that during the last thunderstorm, a centipede, measuring about eight inches in length, was killed by the lightning. As it lay, with gaping mouth, something brilliant appeared in its throat, which upon examination, it is asserted, proved to be a diamond of considerable size and value. Centipedes, we know, to be nearly that size in Fochow, but diamonds we believe are rather scarce in the city, and we should therefore imagine that this wonderful reptile, to satiate its peculiarly extravagant appetite, must have paid a visit to some lady's boudoir in the Settlement.

Although it has recently been asserted that the practice of infanticide remains in vogue in Fochow, it is very evident from the following, that the male infants are considered valuable at even the most tender age, and simply worth the trouble and expense of rearing. On Sunday last, an habitual opium smoker, who had run up a considerable bill at an opium dyan, sold his son, only two years of age, to the proprietor for twenty dollars, and afterwards absconded, leaving a young wife in an utter state of destitution. Upon the mother appealing to a mandarin, the purchaser of the infant was sentenced to receive five hundred blows—incarceration for the period of one month—the forfeiture of his property—and restoration of the child. What punishment will be inflicted upon the principal in the crime, when arrested, it is difficult to say, but probably a fine, imprisonment, and, to torture, and probably capital punishment.—Herald.

MAILS EXPECTED.

THE FRENCH MAIL.
The French mail steamer *Dupleix* left Saigon for this port at 3 a.m. on the 21st instant, and may be expected to arrive here on the 24th.

THE INDIAN MAIL.
The two steamers, with the next Indian mail, left Calcutta on the morning of the 16th instant, and are due here on or about the 1st proximo.

STEAMERS EXPECTED.

The steamer *Nagles* left Sydney on the 16th instant, and is due here on or about the 10th September.

AN APPEAL.

OF HONGKONG AND THE CHINA COAST PORTS.

The old English cemetery within the walls of Macao is in a lamentable state. As a mere resting-place for the dead, the enclosure is a reproach to the faith to which its occupants belonged, and to the country which owes it maintenance. Its condition is the more to be deplored, when it is remembered that within its walls rest the remains of distinguished members of the naval, military, and civil services, the majority of whom lost their lives whilst procuring for foreigners in China those early privileges which have since become so largely developed. There also lie buried there many merchant pioneers to whose enterprise and energy existing commerce in China owed its first impulses of life and activity.

The British Government is naturally the source, whence, primarily, a remedy for this state of things might be looked for. But repeated representations in that direction, made by Mr. Mortimer Murray, H.B.M.'s Vice Consul for Macao, have failed so far to effect any result, beyond the tender by the British Admiralty of ten shillings, to meet the expense of re-painting effaced inscriptions. The locality is in fact too far removed, and its associations too weakened by the lapse of years, to attract interest in England, and it must be confessed that there is no special department nor fund there, to which the work of restoration can properly be relegated.

Under these circumstances, as an old resident in China, and one who once was associated with several of the now dead—one also, who, in common with many others, cannot contemplate the end and condition of their last home without emotion, I trust I may not be thought presumptuous, if I bring the subject to the notice of the general public, European and American alike, there being representatives in the cemetery of every Protestant people now trading with China.

In doing so, I am aware that I lay myself open to remark, in as far as Hongkong is concerned, for adding to the many claims just now being made, or about to be made, upon the public bounty. But the object I advocate is one, which, as regards urgency, compares favourably with any of the others before the public, and I therefore make bold to hope that I shall not want for many sympathisers in the proposition to place matters upon a more decent and reverent footing. The actual sum required to make the requisite repairs, and leave a small fund for future maintenance is estimated at \$2000. A local subscription list will be sent round, but as it will scarcely be possible to circulate lists amongst the coast ports, the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and Mr. Mortimer Murray, H.B.M.'s Vice-Consul at Macao, have kindly consented to receive subscriptions, and the latter gentleman has further volunteered to undertake the suitable disposition of any funds subscribed, and to render a public account thereof hereafter.

WALTER H. MEDHURST.
Hongkong, 22nd August, 1883.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.)

EUROPEAN CONVICT LABOUR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."
DEAR SIR,—The soft hearted party who wrote the paragraph in last night's *Mail* anent the cruelty of working European convicts in this hot climate, was surely hard up for something to write about. He overlooks the fact that many European sailors and tradesmen work all day from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on board ship under the same veridical sun. If he would take the trouble to look at the ships in harbour any day he likes, it will be very strange if he does not see one or more men employed painting or cleaning their masts or yards, and if he likes to go on board he will find on any of them European sailors, donkey men, carpenters or painters all working, aye, and working hard too, under the same sun. Why then should the class who are one of the pests of the colony be allowed to eat the bread of idleness and be taught to look upon gaol life as rather jolly than otherwise? Away with all such soft hearted (and headed) rot. The Colonial Surgeon and their gossiers will see they do not suffer in health or work too hard. Hundreds of honest men work and work far harder than they are likely to do in tropical climates without injury to their constitutions. It ought to be a matter of congratulation to people to hear they do work, and that they do not find gaol life such a joke as they make believe when they come out.

Yours obediently,
"A EUROPEAN WORKMAN."
Hongkong, August 22nd, 1883.

THE ONE DOLLAR FEE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."
SIR,—So much has already been said on the subject of the Harbour Master's taxation of sailors shipped at foreign Consulates, to the extent of \$1 per head, in this Colony that I, as one of the public, would like to know whether the matter has been quietly shelved, or whether there will be any further "revelations" made. public? Will you kindly inform the public, through your columns, what is to be done, and oblige.

Yours truly,
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A FAMOUS GAME AT CARDS.

"The river, immediately before the war," the speaker continued, "was a great gambling house. The splendid steamers plying between New Orleans and the North were loaded with men whose interest was deep in games of chance. The players were the most reckless gamblers. They seldom had any ready money; but would lose their live stock and niggers with equanimity. I went down on the *Belle Key*, in 1859, from Memphis to New Orleans. At Natchez a great planter got aboard with fifty slaves. He shipped into a game with a Northern Judge. The stakes mounted up to fine proportions—something like \$20,000 in one pot—when I saw the Judge win. He held the best hands, and before we reached the Crescent City, owned forty of the planter's niggers, valued at \$1,000 to \$1,500 each. But by all odds the most interesting game I ever saw was played on the *Belle Lamar*, in 1857. There were circumstances connected with it which made it an absorbing event to the people who understood what it really meant. The players were two only. They are both dead, and probably all their descendants have followed them to the grave, so I mention their names and tell you about the train of events which led to that game and its attendant tragedy. In 1856 there lived in a small town in Kentucky a beautiful girl named Alice Crayton. She had a number of suitors, but only two seemed to meet with passing favor in her eyes. One was a rich young planter

named Horace Ellison and the other a young lawyer, recently from the North, named Converse. Ellison had the advantage of his rival in looks and accomplishments. He had traveled extensively, was well read, polished, and bore the reputation of being a dare-devil in affairs of gallantry, and was said to be not over upright and honorable in his affairs with women. He was the sort of a man to attract, most girls. But Miss Crayton preferred Converse, a plain young fellow, and finally married him. Ellison, after swearing to be reformed, went abroad. The course of a year Converse and his wife went to New Orleans to live. Two years after the marriage Converse, returning home on the *Belle Lamar*, after a business trip North, discovered his old rival, Ellison, among the passengers. All feelings of resentment had died out in his heart, and he greeted Ellison heartily, the latter returning his hand-shake with well simulated warmth. For a day the two men chatted together agreeably, to all appearances good friends. The next evening Ellison proposed a little draw to while away the monotony of the voyage. Converse readily assented, and they started the game in a large state room. Four or five others were present, but they didn't join it. At first the ante was trifling. As Converse steadily lost, he insisted on raising it with each deal, and began drinking, a rare thing for him to do. His ill fortune continued, and after a session of two hours he began to borrow money from his friends in the room, having lost all his own to Ellison. The latter was cool and firm as a rock. He seldom spoke, and then in cutting accents, which added to the fast-growing enmity his opponent felt toward him.

"Perhaps if Mr. Converse would finger his glass less and his cards more, his game would be more interesting and less easy to beat," Ellison remarked.

"Mr. Converse can take care of himself under all circumstances," Converse retorted.

"Yes," he demonstrated his facility for looking after his own interest two years ago, when he won a great stake, but not by fair play!" "I saw Converse's face flush. He understood the allusion to the old rivalry between him and Ellison and its covert insinuation. He started as though to say something, but stopped. The game went on and soon after Converse had lost every penny and his watch and diamond pin.

"Elison laughed sneeringly. 'Mr. Converse should apply his methods in love-making to card-playing,' he said.

"What do you mean, sir?"

"What you please. Shall we continue the game?"

"Converse was white with fury. The gambling spirit, mingled with hate and rage, was on him. As if to answer to his unspoken thoughts, Ellison said, in his cold, exasperating tones:—'You lack a stake. I will hazard all my winnings against the nightgown of your house. We will play three hands in five for it.'

"This monstrous proposition struck us all dumb. Converse bounded from his chair and gasped. He was speechless. In fact, the emotions of the great experience had deprived him of the power of words. Ellison alone was unmoved. He sat quietly tossing the pile of gold before him with his white fingers.

"Do you consent?" he asked.

"The less Converse had sustained he could not replace. Ruin was before him. On the other hand, the privilege he was invited to hazard meant, if he lost, a dishonor worse than death. What thoughts passed through that man's mind in a few seconds will never be known. He grasped the back of his chair striding wildly around and hoarsely muttered 'Yes!'

"You may imagine how breathlessly we bent over the players now. They shuffled the cards in silence. Ellison won the first two deals. The next Converse won. The fourth time, amid a silence in the room deep as the tomb, Ellison dealt and gave Converse two queens, a jack and two nine-spots. The latter drew a card and announced himself as ready. Ellison glanced quickly at him and laid down four aces. I always thought he had stacked his hand.

"You have won the key," said Converse. He drew it off the ring, and then, quick as light, he went on board he will find on any of them European sailors, donkey men, carpenters or painters all working, aye, and working hard too, under the same sun. Why then should the class who are one of the pests of the colony be allowed to eat the bread of idleness and be taught to look upon gaol life as rather jolly than otherwise? Away with all such soft hearted (and headed) rot. The Colonial Surgeon and their gossiers will see they do not suffer in health or work too hard. Hundreds of honest men work and work far harder than they are likely to do in tropical climates without injury to their constitutions. It ought to be a matter of congratulation to people to hear they do work, and that they do not find gaol life such a joke as they make believe when they come out.

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